THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment of Newspapers Registration Act

428. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Newspapers Registration Act; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill, 1988 was introduced in the House on 5-12-1988. The views of the newspapers representation will be taken into consideration before proceeding further with the Bill.

Allotment of Agricultural land to women

429. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to allot agricultural land specifically to women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Various State Governments have taken legal and administrative measures to implement the 6th Plan directive of providing joint titles/pattas to women in the matter of allotment of land for agriculture and house-sites purposes. In the Conference of Revenue Minister held in December, 1988 the consensus was that specific targets could be considered for allotting land specifically to women beneficiaries. Land being a State subject State Governments are competent to allot land specifically to rural poor women pursuant to this consensus

Use of plastics in Agriculture

430. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to launch any pilot programme to promote the use of plastics in Agriculture from the coming April; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the said programme and the States alongwith the areas which are being considered for the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15 districts in 13 States have been identified. This programme is aimed at popularising the use of plastics in drip irrigation, pond/canal lining, Green house, hail protection nets and plastic crates.

Setting up of food processing units with World Bank assistance

431. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank had agreed to provide assis-

tance for setting up food processing units in different States; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the assistance and States and Units where such assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) World Bank has evinced interest in funding Agro Inustries Projects in India in the field of Fisheries, Meat, and Meat products, Fruits and Vegetables, Oil Seeds, packaging Sericulture, and Leather. Consultant have been engaged for identifying the areas that may require funding.

Homes for shelterless

432. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to provide homes for shelterless;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of shelterless which are still without shelter in India; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to provide shelter to them during the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Housing is a State subject and all social housing schemes are implemented by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations according to their local needs and plan priorities. Several steps have been taken at the National Level as part of National Housing Policy (N.H.P.) to meet the demands for housing. Some of them are as follows:—

(i) The Public Sector outlay for housing has been raised from Rs. 1490.37 crores in the Sixth Five Year Plan to Rs. 2458.21 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(ii) To provide easy accessibility to housing finance, the National Housing Bank has been set up.

(iii) HUDCO's financial operation has been sufficiently stepped up.

(iv) The National Houisng Policy has envisaged eradication of shelterlessness from the country by turn of this century.

(v) Under the Rural House Sites-cum-Construction Assistance Scheme for landless workers, a provision of Rs. 577 crores has been made. Of this, Rs. 36 crores would be utilised to provide developed house-sites of 90 sq. mtrs. each to 7.2 lakh landless families at the rate of Rs. 500 per family and Rs. 541 crores would be utilised for the provision of construction assistance of 271 lakh families at the rate of Rs. 2000 per family.

(vi) During the last four years of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the achievements have been as follows—

31.42 lakh plots were allotted to landless workers in rural areas.

15.24 lakh families were given construction assistance.

4.58 lakh dwelling units have been constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana.

69.66 lakh persons in urban slums were covered by the scheme of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums.